

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01645 170002Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 /046 W  
-----170006Z 070371 /46

P 162356Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2817

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EO 11651: N/A  
TAGS: SENV, CA  
SUBJECT: BEAUFORT SEA

REF: STATE 056130/1

1. AMBASSADOR DELIVERED NOTE TO EXTAFF ACTING UNDER SECRETARY TOWE MARCH 16. MADE ORAL POINTS LISTED IN REFTEL PARA 3.
2. TOWE WELCOMED OUR VIEWS. QUESTION OF ISSUING PERMITS FOR 1977 DRILLING SEASON WILL BE PUT TO CABINET THIS WEEK-END, ALONG WITH SUMMARY OF OUR NOTE. TOWE EXPECTS CABINET TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE DRILLING PERMITS FOR THE 1977 SEASON IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL. IN DOING SO, HE SAID THAT THE CABINET WILL WISH TO POSE ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS AND SPECIFY COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF RISKS EXPERIENCED DURING THE 1976 DRILLING SEASON. CANADA "HAS THE SAME INTERESTS THE U.S. HAS" IN PREVENTING ABUSES.
3. AS REGARDS LIABILITY, TOWE SAID THAT THE GOC IS STUDYING A REVISION OF ITS LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD GIVE U.S. CITIZENS ACCESS TO COMPENSATION ON TERMS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS CANADIANS. TOWE SAID THAT THE PREMISE FOR THIS NEW DIRECTION WOULD BE THE REINTRODUCTION OF U.S. ENVIRON-

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MENT DAMAGE LIABILITY LEGISLATION INTO THE U.S. CONGRESS WITH THE SAME PROVISION AS LAST YEAR GRANTING ACCESS TO CANADIAN CITIZENS.

4. TOWE SAID THAT CANADA HAD VALUED ITS EXCHANGES WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE BEAUFORT SEA AND WOULD SUSTAIN THE FLOW OF INFORMATION.

5. TOWE CONCLUDED THAT CANADA WILL RESPOND IN WRITING TO THE U.S. NOTE "IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

6. COMMENT: TOWE'S RESPONSES WERE ENCOURAGING, IF VERY GENERAL IN CHARACTER. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW CONVINCING ARE THE CONDITIONS AND COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES FOR THE 1977 PERMITS. WE MAY HAVE TO GO BACK TO CANADA FOR MODIFICATIONS WHEN THEY ARE KNOWN. HOWEVER, CANADA CLEARLY WISHES TO MAINTAIN A CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE TONE IN HANDLING THE BEAUFORT SEA ISSUE. ENDERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, DIPLOMATIC NOTES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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